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SPORT FORUM

Heavyweight Ch'ship Heads Boxers' Ambitions

Sir—The heavyweight championship of the world is boxing's crowning glory, the maker of heroes and million dollar gates. Out of the thousands who have fought in the Heavyweight division only 19 have held the title since John L. Sullivan won the last bare knuckles fight in 1889. As for the rest, you could say that some were not good enough, others perhaps were not lucky enough. But there was probably only one man who never became champion because he was too good, his name was Sam Langford.

If ever this rugged leather-tossing profession had a real "uncrowned king" it was the 5 feet 7 inch Will-o-the-Wisp, known professionally as the "Boston Tar Baby". Sam Langford, he struck down many of the world's best heavyweights, even though he himself never weighed more than 160 pounds. Born in Weymouth Falls, N.S. February 12, 1880.

During his 24 year career, he was managed by Joe Woodman and trained by George "Budge" Byers of Charlotetown and actually took part in more than 600 bouts, although the record books say 250.

Langford was 15 when he started boxing as a professional, but it was a tough road he had chosen to follow, he received only 5 or 10 dollars for a fight and often entered the ring with only a handful of doughnuts and a few glasses of water as nourishment.

The "Boston Tar Baby" made a habit of beating Champions yet he never won a world's title. He thrived in an era when the big fellows were at the peak of their popularity and Sam missed very few of the good ones, clever boxers, rugged sluggers, hard punchers, they were all alike to the hard hitting Nova Scotian.

Many of them he met not once but often, his most extensive series was with Harry Wills. They fought twenty-two times. Other active "feuds" were thirteen with Joe Jeannette six with Jack Blackburn.

When Sam was 17 he defeated Joe Gans, then Lightweight Champion of the world, three years later he fought 15 hectic rounds with Jack Johnson only to lose by a close decision. That one fight was enough for Johnson and for the 7 years he held the heavyweight title. He could never be lured into a return bout with Sam. Denied a chance at the title Langford listed in the Record Book, as a Welterweight kept on in the hope that some champion would someday agree to give him a crack at a world title, but fate wasn't playing a winning hand for the "Boston Tar Baby".

On one or more occasions during the last few years, boxers have insisted on the adoption of their own referees before they would enter the ring.

This reminds one of the story told of Langford the negro had been matched to fight Lion Hague in London at the national Sporting Club as most visiting fighters made a great fuss about the selection of the third man. The promoter was somewhat suspicious when Sam made no indication that he was even interested about the choice of a referee.

On the day of the contest the promoter said to Langford, "Sam, you haven't made any inquiries as to who will referee the fight."

"What, said Sam, "I am not interested, I carry my own referee with me."

"No, no, Sam you can not have your own referee."

"Yes I can," said Langford. "Here it is" where upon he hoisted his right fist. It was Sam knocked out Hague in jug time that night.

Langford never was a clown of the ring in the accepted sense of the word, he attended pretty much to business and business usually consisted in hooking a victim on the chin and removing him from the picture with as little pain and commotion as possible.

Fireman Jim Flynn was one of Sam's hated rivals and all because of a sports writer named "Beanie" Walker of the

Rocket Returns To Ice Lanes

MONTREAL (CP) — Maurice (Rocket) Richard went to an outdoor rink Sunday and skated for the first time since a severe injury took him out of National Hockey League play last Nov. 13.

The Rocket's return to the ice was as a referee. He handled a game between teams of youngsters on a park rink near his home. He was on the ice about an hour.

Rocket said he thinks it will be a week or two before he can even figure on returning to practices with Montreal Canadiens.

The 36-year-old star suffered a severely cut achilles tendon in an NHL game in Toronto. The final cast was not removed from his leg until around Christmas. He is taking regular treatments to help strengthen his leg muscles.

"The foot and leg right now aren't even 50 per cent good enough for hockey," said Richard after the mild workout. "They felt stiff and I haven't much strength in the tendon yet."

"I expect to skate again tomorrow but I think it will be at least 10 days before I can join the team for practice."

Gibson Voted Woman Athlete

NEW YORK (AP)—Althea Gibson, the first Negro to play at Wimbledon, Saturday was selected as the outstanding United States female athlete of 1957 by an overwhelming vote in The Associated Press year-end poll.

Miss Gibson, Wimbledon and United States women's tennis champion, will receive two trophies: the Fraternal Order of the Eagles - Frederick C. Miller trophy won last year by Mrs. Pat Keller McCummock, the Olympic diving champion, and the Babe Drikson Zaharias trophy, presented in memory of the all-around athlete who was selected six times as the outstanding woman athlete in the AP poll.

The 30-year-old New Yorker, who started out playing paddle tennis on sidewalks, received 420 out of a possible 516 points in the balloting. Nearest to her was Paty Berg, professional golfer and 1955 woman athlete of the year, with 95 points. Bowling champion Marion Ladewig came in third with 81.

There was no question about Miss Gibson's supremacy in her own game. She won two of the world's foremost tennis championships and lost her only singles match of the year in the final of a third. That was the Australian championship in January, where she was beaten by Shirley Fry. Althea beat Darlene Hard, another American, in straight sets in the Wimbledon final and conquered Louise Brough in the final at Forest Hills.

Her other 1957 titles included the U.S. clay courts, Asian championships, Pacific southwest and Pacific coast.

It was a year of notable "firsts" for the Harlem girl who earlier had been the first Negro to play tennis on the courts at Wimbledon and Forest Hills. In 1957 she realized her long-standing ambition to become the first of her race to win the national championship.

Only a few years before, Althea had been discouraged and "ready to chuck it all."

Writers Are Not Convinced Turpin Would Be Badly Hurt

By ED SIMON
Canadian Press Staff Writer
LONDON (CP)—The burden of the complaint against the ban by the British authorities of the proposed fight between Willie Pastrano and Randy Turpin seems to be that Pastrano wouldn't have hurt the British light-heavyweight champion too badly in the process of murdering him.

Additionally, critics of the decision by the British Boxing Board of Control offer convincing evidence that a fight between Turpin and the world's fourth-ranking heavyweights would have drawn a capacity crowd.

If the loss of a sure-fire box office attraction weighed most heavily with the fight's promoters, it was the implied slur on the prestige of British boxing that brought an indignant outcry from most of the sports writers.

TRYING COMEBACK
At 29, Turpin is the only active Briton who has ever held a world title. But six years have gone by since he outpointed Robinson for the middleweight crown, only to be stopped by Robinson in a return match three months later.

Currently he is on a modest comeback campaign after suffering knockouts at the hands of Italy's Tiberio Mitri in 1954 and Canada's Gordon Wallace the following year. He has never fought in the heavyweight division.

Pastrano, 22, gave Britain's Dick Richardson a boxing lesson in a recent London appearance but is a notoriously light hitter. The sports writers, notorious believers in the ability of any British fighter to annihilate any American despite repeated evidence to the contrary, were divided in their views on the advisability of a Turpin - Pastrano meeting.

But when the BBC banned the match under a rule permitting them "to prohibit any contest which in their opinion is not in the interest of boxing," there were anguished cries of dissent.

TURPIN SUPPORTERS
"A raw deal," said Bill Mc-

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HEINZ Tomato Juice 2 for 37c

PERFECTION milk 6 Tins 93c
CLAMS tin 29c
BUTTER 2 lbs. 1.35
SARDINES 2 tins 19c
VANILLA 2 bottles 19c
TISSUE, Ballet 2 for 25c
PEAS, 15 oz. 3 tins 49c

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HERB SCORE PITCHES

General manager Frank Lane watches Herb Score throw his first pitch—a snowball—after signing his 1958 contract with the Cleveland Indians. The Fireball hurler—whose career was nearly ended last season by a line drive that struck him below his right eye—signed for the same figure (approximately \$20,000) he received in 1957. The injury, which occurred on May 7th, sidelined Score for the remainder of the season. Now completely mended, Herb is anxious to get back on the mound.

Congressmen Promise To Protect Minor Clubs From TV

WASHINGTON (AP) — Two members of Congress said Tuesday they will do all they can within the U.S. anti-monopoly laws to prevent major league television harming baseball's minor leagues.

But the two, Representative Emanuel Celler (Dem. N.Y.) and Kenneth Keating (Rep. N.Y.), made clear they would prefer that major league clubs act independently to protect the minors.

Celler, chairman of the House of Representatives anti-trust subcommittee, and Keating conferred on baseball's TV dilemma with Commissioner Ford Frick and a trio of major league officials.

Baseball leaders requested the meeting when the minors declared a TV network's plan to beam a major league game of the week every Sunday threatened them with destruction.

After the closed meeting Celler and Keating issued a statement saying they were "deeply sympathetic" and would be "as helpful as possible within the law."

They added they "will reserve decision as to any remedy for the time being." They hoped to propose a solution in another week or so.

After talking with Frick for an hour, Celler and Keating heard the minors' case from George Trautman, president of the minors; Frank Shaughnessy, head of the International League, and Frank J. Horton, president of the Rochester Red Wings of the International League.

Frick has supported the minors in their complaint against the Columbia Broadcasting System's plan to televise Sunday games next season. Both CBS and NBC televised separate Saturday games last year and intend to continue those programs in 1958.

Frick told reporters he did not expect new legislation would be introduced to settle the TV controversy. He said he thought the next step would be to thresh out the question with the justice department.

Durelle Is Coming Along Fine

MONCTON (CP) — Yvon Durelle, whose trek towards the world light heavyweight boxing championship was interrupted by a bad shrimp, is "coming along fine," manager Chris Shaban said Monday night.

Durelle, originally billed to meet Tony Anthony of Detroit in New York Jan. 11, resumes training next week after recovering from pneumonia poisoning doctors said resulted from bad shrimps he ate four days before the fight. He meets Anthony Jan. 31.

Shaban said Durelle still felt a little dizzy at times but is regaining his full strength.

Durelle will do a little brush up work with brothers Bimbo and Placide Durelle at his native Baie Ste. Anne, N.B., and then come here to resume his training with Maritime welterweight champion Norman Gautreau and middleweight Nick Kovac.

Shaban said he and Durelle will leave Jan. 25 for New York where Yvon will put the finishing touches to his training.

The Anthony fight is considered the key to Durelle's bid to challenge champion Archie Moore. Anthony was defeated by Moore on a technical knockout last September.

Durelle now is ranked the No. 2 contender by the National Boxing Association behind Harold Johnston.

Durelle held Anthony to a draw in Detroit before Anthony met Moore.

Chualvo Offered A Title Fight

TORONTO (CP) — Tommy McBeigh, manager of Toronto heavyweight George Chualvo, said Wednesday Chualvo has been offered a title fight March 24 with British Empire champion Joe Erskine.

McBeigh said he will not decide on the offer until after Chualvo's fight here Jan. 27 against Julios Mederos of Cuba.

The offer was made by London promoter Jack Solomon last week. McBeigh said terms have not been discussed. He said his answer will depend on the outcome of the Mederos fight and on prospects of a bout with Yvon Durelle of Baie Ste. Anne, N.B., Canadian and British Empire light-heavyweight champion.

Score Signs New Contract

CLEVELAND (AP)—Southpaw Herb Score signed his 1958 contract with Cleveland Indians Wednesday and said he is "feeling fine and looking forward to enjoying a wonderful season."

No salary was announced but the baseball club said the contract terms were "the same as he received last year."

A line drive off the bat of New York Yankee infielder Gil McDougald felled Score in a night game here last May 7. The retina of his right eye was swollen by the blow and through the remainder of the season his vision was impaired.

U.K. Football Ass'n Results

LONDON (Reuters) — Results of Football Association Cup matches played Wednesday in the United Kingdom:
Third Round
York City 3 Birmingham C 0 (winners at home to Bolton)
Third Round replays
Charlton 1 Huddersfield 0 (winners away to Fulham)
Barnsley 0 Hull City 2 (winners away to Sheffield W)
Southend 2 Liverpool 3 (winners at home to Northampton)
Aston Villa 3 Stoke City 3 (extra time)
Soccer cup third round
Everton 3 Sunderland 1

James Will Play Hockey

TORONTO (CP) — Toronto Maple Leafs of the National Hockey League announced Friday that Gerry James, star of hockey and football, has agreed to a contract to report to their American League farm team at Rochester next Thursday.

Leaf coach Billy Reay said chief scout Bob Davidson phoned from Winnipeg to report James is satisfied with terms.

James said he will ask officials of Winnipeg Blue Bombers of the Western Interprovincial Football Union to see whether they will allow him to play hockey.

He concluded a two-year term with Leafs last spring and was

Offered Job By Alouettes

ATLANTA, Ga. (AP)—The Atlanta Journal says J. B. Whitworth, recently released as head football coach at the University of Alabama after three losing years, has been offered a job with Montreal Alouettes of the Canadian Big Four.

The paper says Whitworth was offered the job as assistant to Montreal Coach Douglas (Pea-head) Walker during the National Collegiate Athletic Association convention in Philadelphia.

Quarterback Gets Army Call

WINNIPEG (CP) — Import quarterback Kenny Pleon of Winnipeg Blue Bombers of the Western Interprovincial Football Union said Friday he has received a draft call to report to the United States Army Feb. 6.

Pleon made the statement by telephone from his home in Clinton, Iowa.

Pleon said the only thing that could keep him out of the army is a knee injury he suffered Nov. 30 while quarterbacking Bombers in the Grey Cup final.

Martin Signs With Tigers

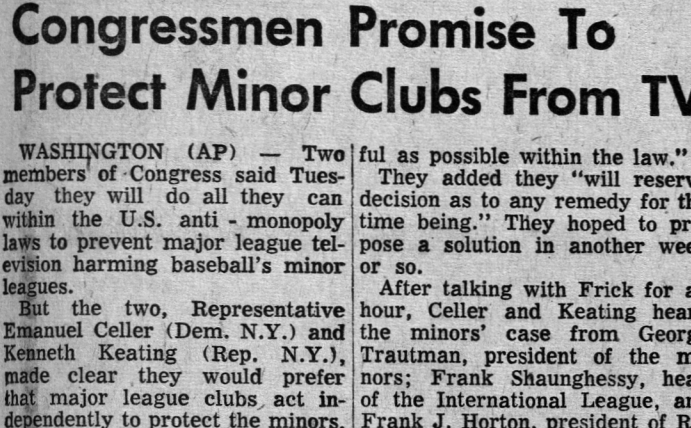
DETROIT (AP)—Billy Martin, peppery shortstop obtained in a swap with Kansas City Athletics, Friday signed his first contract with Detroit Tigers. Terms were not disclosed.

Martin signed after a conference with Detroit General Manager John McHale. He became the second Tiger to sign for 1958 season. Jim Bunning, a 20-game winner last year, was the first.

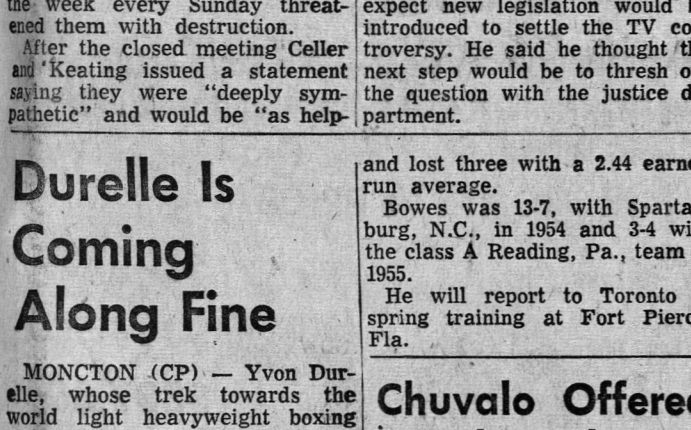
ANOTHER HONOR - - - By Alan Mauer
WARREN SPAHN, OF THE CHAMPION MILWAUKEE BRAVES.
ENUMERATING ALL THE PITCHING ACCOMPLISHMENTS HE HAS BEHIND HIM WOULD TAKE MORE TIME THAN A COMMERCIAL LET'S JUST SAY THAT IF HIS FUTURE HOLDS ANOTHER 20-WIN YEAR, HE'LL BE THE FIRST LEFTY TO HAVE HAD 9 SUCH SEASONS.
Distributed by Ross Features Syndicate



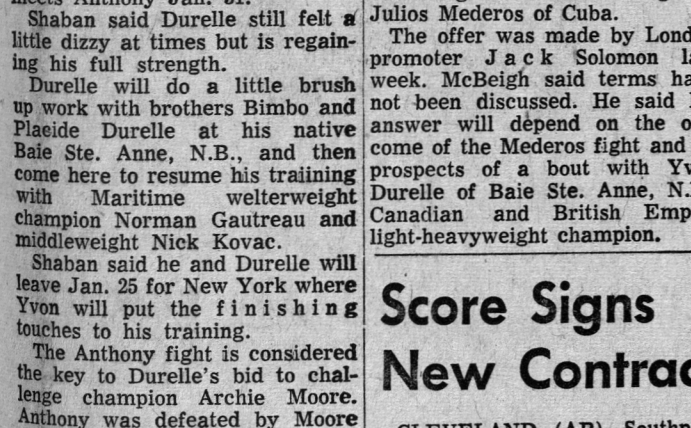
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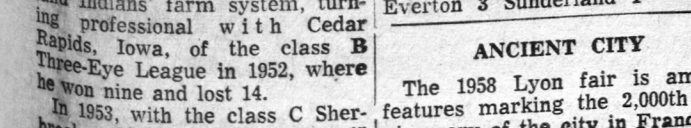
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